



**The Compassionate Friends**  
**Manhattan Chapter**  
 Supporting Family After a Child Dies

**Our next meetings...**  
 Feb 18  
 Mar 18  
 Apr 15  
 May 20

**Manhattan Chapter Newsletter** **February 2025**

**FEB 18TH MEETING—3RD TUESDAY IN-PERSON**

In-person only on the third Tuesday, February 18th We are still working to figure out how and when we can work in on-line meetings. It's by far worth the extra effort to come in-person, but we recognize not everyone can.

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**What Does It Mean “To Lose A Child”**

What does it mean to lose a child? What makes this particular loss so indescribable? What is it about the love for a child that is incomprehensible to those who have never had a child? Only those who have had a child naturally or by adoption, and raised that child, know how incomparable a love is born with that child. For we all are born into a world where we have mothers and fathers. That's a love we all understand. When children are robbed of their parents at an early age, it might seem the worst loss. There is nothing to compare the pain to. But as we travel through life, and the losses mount, we learn the difference in losing a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle, a parent...but a child?...?

When we lose a child, it is such an incomprehensible loss. It is completely out of order. Everything we ever thought about our child becomes undone. We often heard...“It's a parent's worst nightmare.” But the truth is, it isn't even that. It is a thought that may have only crossed our minds if we heard about someone else losing their child. It is not a thought or even a nightmare that we ever had about ourselves... it is just not possible to imagine losing one of our children. And having said that, how is it possible that we (con't on page 2)

**Valentine Message**

*I send this message to my child  
 who no longer walks this plane,  
 a message filed with love,  
 yet also filed with pain.  
 My heart continues to skip a beat  
 when I ponder your early death  
 as I think of times we'll never share  
 I must stop to catch my breath.  
 Valentine's Day is for those who love  
 and for those who receive love, too.  
 For a parent the perfect love in life  
 is the love I've given you.  
 I'm thinking of you this day, my child,  
 with a sadness that is unspoken  
 As I mark another Valentine's Day  
 with a heart that is forever broken.*

~ **Annette Mennon Baldwin** TCF Katy, Tx

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**THE LOVE NEVER STOPS  
 HAPPY VALENTINES DAY**

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**TELEPHONE FRIENDS:** When you are having the kind of day you feel only another bereaved parent or sibling can understand, we can listen and share with you. Don't hesitate to call our Manhattan Chapter phone for meeting information **(917) 300 3706**. To speak with someone please call one of the following volunteers; Jacquie Mitchell (eves) (347) 414-1780 jacquienytcf@gmail.com and for siblings, Jordon Ferber (917) 837-7752, beatniknudnik@yahoo.com

TCF MANHATTAN CHAPTER email: [tcfmanhattan@gmail.com](mailto:tcfmanhattan@gmail.com)  
 TCF MANHATTAN website: [www.compassionatefriends.nyc](http://www.compassionatefriends.nyc)  
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THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS MEETINGS are now monthly - in person on the third Tuesday of the month  
**WE MEET AT 7:00pm—arrive or sign on at 6:45pm**  
 This month, Feb. 18, 2025, we will be meeting only in person at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church  
**55th Street and Fifth Ave (enter at 7 West 55th St.)**

*The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance self-help organization offering friendship and understanding to bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings. We are a group seeking support in our grief or are able to give it. Among us your religion, your race, your politics, your job or social standing are not important. We care about your grief—the tragedy that each of us have shared—and how we can grow through it, not back to the person we were, but to the person we can become.*

## A NEW YEAR BEGINS

Living life with a heart badly broken by loss  
Is a difficult life to be sure.  
When the broken heart's caused by the death of one's child  
grief's an agony hard to endure.

I began this new year without promise or hope,  
bewildered, bereft and bereaved.  
Missing you; you anchored my world in its place,  
now I struggle through pain, unrelieved.

I know life is in constant renewal,  
death takes to make room for the new.  
Mankind's not exempt from this process,  
we expect death will come when its due.

But I find myself needing to question  
if a maker has planned out this scheme...  
for the parting of parent and child by death  
has no rational part of this theme.

What's the point? What's the plan? Are there rules?  
It might help if I knew where I stood.  
Did I cherish, and love, and nurture my child  
just to suffer the trauma of losing for good?

I know there aren't answers to questions I pose.  
I must search for my solace within.  
Making peace with the pain and the anger and grief  
through tears that seem never to end.

Living life with a heart badly broken by loss  
is a life that is empty and sad...  
And I mourn for the years that are lost to us now,  
for the future my child never had.

As I face this new year without her sweet smile  
I yearn for what now cannot be...  
But her memory lives on through the words that I share  
of the beauty and joy that was she.

~ Sally Migliaccio, *in memory of Tracey, always*

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## Mind Games

Mind games – it can happen anywhere, anytime. Driving along  
the highway, I think: just suppose I turn my head quickly, will  
you suddenly be sitting next to me? Will you be humming along  
to a song that was a particular favorite of yours? I swear I can  
hear you singing loudly and a bit off key again.

Or perhaps I'm in the supermarket and I see someone with long  
blonde hair – Is it you? My heart thumps. I want so badly for it to  
be you. People glance at me strangely and I realize I'm standing  
in the middle of the aisle weeping. Even the special foods you  
loved can reduce me to tears. I'm tempted to buy your favorites  
and prepare them for when you come home for supper.

At night, when I climb into bed, I scrunch over to the middle, this  
gives you room to sit next to me the way you would after coming  
home from a date. My senses are alive with you. I can smell your  
special perfume and feel your long slender fingers with the pearl

## What Does It Mean “To Lose A Child” (from page 1)

might ever given a thought to becoming...dare I say it...childless.

So what did we lose? Understanding that we have no adequate lan-  
guage for this “condition”, we must do what we can with the lan-  
guage we do have. Our children were the vessels for an indescrib-  
able love – a love that was born with them. It is a love we could not  
have imagined had we not had our children. It is a sensibility, a  
feeling, a palpable, physical sensation at the core of our being.  
When our children were alive, we never had a need to describe  
what we felt. Now that they are no longer here to receive all that  
love that we were broadcasting we are reeling and off balance – as  
all that love goes sailing out into a universe with seemingly nobody  
to receive we try desperately to describe the feeling to an audi-  
ence that cannot biologically comprehend what we are experienc-  
ing. An audience that want desperately for us to recover our lost  
balance and will often say and do the darndest things to get us  
back and make them feel comfortable again.

What did we lose. We lost our receiver. And that receiver did so  
much more than just receive. That receiver broadcast back to us an  
ongoing signal that validated us. It gave us purpose. It gave us  
pride. It gave us satisfaction. It gave us futurity.

And it gave us little things. It gave us a reason to live, to get  
through the day. It gave us a lifetime of simple pleasures and long  
term hopes and dreams. Of school plays and football games, of  
shopping trips and Disneyworld. Sleepovers, proms, graduations,  
birthday parties, anniversaries, weddings...grandchildren. When  
we go over the list of what we have lost, we can truly see the differ-  
ence this loss brings. Because this loss is the biggest loss of all.  
With this loss, we seem to have lost it all.

So here we are, the survivors of life's biggest loss. How do we in-  
corporate this loss into the rest of our lives and continue on? It's a  
monumental challenge. It will take a lifetime to figure it out. But I  
can attest to the fact that though it is a mighty task, it is doable. And  
it will be an ongoing tribute to your children that you have chosen  
to honor them and their abbreviated lives by including them in  
your new, purpose driven life.

Marie Levine, 2011

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(con't from left column)

ring Daddy gave you for graduation. I can hear your laughter. I will  
you to stay with me until I fall asleep.

Then there are the times when I consciously call out your name in  
the silence of the house. My mind knows there will be no response,  
but in my heart, I hear you answer me and for that split moment you  
are there at the top of the stairs as surely as I am at the bot-  
tom. Barbara...Barbara...Barbara...your name is a litany.

I suppose that behavior could be considered quite strange. What  
does one make of it? Weeping in supermarkets, calling to one who  
is not here. Oh, but in that fraction of a second when one feels one's  
loved one close, that feeling, although bittersweet, soothes and  
comforts a splintered heart.

Mind games... it can happen anywhere, anytime.

~ Bunny Placco, TCF, Greater Providence, RI

## Siblings

The loss of a sibling – no matter how old, no matter how close or not, and no matter how often death has occurred to others we know, is like losing part of our own lives and part of ourselves. Who will be left now to remember us as the children we once were? Who will be able to remember our parents the way we do and as only their children can? Who will there be who lived in the same house, tasted the same foods, heard the same stories, were taught the same lessons we were? We still have our own memories of course, but without someone who shared them and can relive them with us, they become mere ghosts.

When we lose a sibling, we lose not just the particular person or relationship, but perhaps the last remaining link with our past. Our siblings are special people in our lives, i.e. sometimes they are supports and sometimes they are stresses or even strangers to us. But it does not really matter because regardless of whether we like each other, we have intimately shared and shaped each others' past and been shaped by them. So when our siblings age and fail, our own lives are changed too. And when our siblings die, we know there is no one else – no matter how close to us they may be – who can bring back the particular part of our life we have lost.

~ Lillian Hawthorne, Senior World Magazine

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### It's The Music That Bonds The Soul

The room you once lived in  
doesn't look the same.  
The people who used to call you  
never mention your name.

The car you used to drive  
they may not make anymore;  
and all the things you treasured  
are boxed behind closed doors.

The clothes you set trends by  
are surely out of date.  
The people you owed money to  
have wiped away the slate.

Things have changed and changed  
since you went away,  
but some things remain the same  
each and every day.

Like the aching in my heart –  
a scar that just won't heal,  
or the way a special song  
can change the way I feel.

Brother, you must know that the music  
bonds us and will keep us close;  
because secretly I know in my heart  
It's the music you miss the most.

So let the world keep turning.  
Time can take its toll.  
As long as the music is playing,  
you'll be dancing in my soul.

~ Stacie Gilliam, TCF, N. Oklahoma City, OK

## The Compassionate Friends Sibling Credo

*We are the surviving siblings of The Compassionate Friends  
We are brought together by the deaths of our brothers and sisters*

*Open your hearts to us, but have patience with us.*

*Sometimes we need our families to be there.*

*Sometimes we must walk alone, taking our memories with us,  
to become the individuals we want to be.*

*We cannot be our dead brother or sister; however a special  
part of them lives on with us.*

*When our brothers and sisters died, our lives changed.*

*We are living a life very different from what we envisioned and  
we feel a responsibility to be strong even when we feel weak.*

*Yet we can go on because we understand better than many the  
value of family and the precious gift of life.*

*Our goal is not to be the forgotten mourners that we are, but to  
walk together to face tomorrow as the surviving siblings of The  
Compassionate Friends.*

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### TUESDAYS

TUESDAYS AT 7:00PM

With Jordon Ferber - Sibling Leader

Siblings in the Manhattan Chapter meet every  
Tuesday of the month and more.

**Sign up to get our siblings schedule emails**

[Click here for exclusive sibling emails](#)

### TCF SIBLING CHATS

Some online chats for adult and teen siblings to  
share concerns and feelings are available on the  
TCF National website

[Click here to display the full schedule of chats for  
both parents and siblings](#)

***“To take life seriously, you must take death seriously.  
Death does not come only at the end of life with the tolling of  
the bells, but all through the midst of life with the ticking of the  
clock.***

*Moments die, days die. Life is a progression of little funerals.  
And only when we admit how fragile, and ephemeral is its  
quantity, do we give due attention to its quality. Seneca said,*

***“It's not the living that matters, but living well.”***

~ George E LaMoore, Jr.

## Recommended reading...

- ◆ The Bereaved Parent by Harriet Sarnoff
- ◆ First You Die by Marie Levine
- ◆ Talking to Heaven by James Van Praagh
- ◆ Beyond Tears by nine mothers
- ◆ Love Never Dies by Sandy Goodman
- ◆ The Worst Loss by Barbara D. Rossoff

⇒ take advantage of the book list on the TCF website [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

⇒ go to [www.centeringcorp.org](http://www.centeringcorp.org) for an extensive list of resources for ALL those grieving for every possible reason – for parents, grandparents, siblings, mothers, fathers, teens, children...because of sudden death, accident, long term illness, infant loss, miscarriage, homicide, substance abuse, etc.

Reading other bereaved people's stories helps us. Take advantage of these resources. Discovering how much of what we feel is being experienced by fellow travelers helps us understand the process and restores hope.

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### ...to our new members

Attending your first meeting is the hardest thing to do. But you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Try not to judge your first meeting as to whether or not TCF will work for you. Often, it is the second, third or fourth meeting where you will find just the right person or the right words said that will help you along in your grief.

### ...to our long standing members

We need your encouragement and continued support. You are what ties our group together. Sadly, each meeting brings new parents. *THINK BACK...* what would it have been like for you if there had not been any "oldtimers" to welcome you and share your grief and encourage you and tell you that in time, the pain will soften...with time, there is hope.

~ ~ ~

## The Compassionate Friends Credo

*We need not walk alone.*

*We are The Compassionate Friends.*

*We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope.*

*Our children have died at all ages and from many different causes,*

*but our love for our children unites us.*

*Your pain becomes my pain just as your hope becomes my hope.*

*We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances.*

*We are a unique family because we represent many races and creeds.*

*We are young and we are old.*

*Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh,*

*and so intensely painful that we feel helpless and see no hope.*

*Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength; some of us are struggling to find answers.*

*Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or deep depression; others radiate an inner peace.*

*It is pain we will share just as we share the love for our children.*

*We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves,*

*but we are committed to building a future together as we reach out to each other*

*in love, and share the pain as well as the joy,*

*share the anger as well as the peace,*

*share the faith as well as the doubts,*

*and help each other to grieve, as well as to grow.*

WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE.

WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS.

~ ~ ~

## Online Support from the National Compassionate Friends Website

### Live Chats

The Compassionate Friends offers "virtual chapters" through an Online Support Community (live chats). This program was established to encourage connecting and sharing among parents, grandparents, and siblings (over the age of 18) grieving the death of a child. The rooms supply support, encouragement, and friendship. The friendly atmosphere encourages conversation among friends; friends who understand the emotions you're experiencing. There are general bereavement sessions as well as more specific sessions.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and a list and schedule of Live Chats.

### Private Facebook Groups

The Compassionate Friends offers a variety of Private Facebook Groups. These pages cover a wide range of topics and are moderated by bereaved parents, siblings, or grandparents. They may be accessed only after a request to join is approved by a moderator.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and a list of Private Facebook Groups.



## OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1	<b>JAMES RUSSO</b> , brother of Adrienne Russo	2/17	<b>IRIS</b> , daughter of Alyson Ben-David
2/1	<b>RICHARD VALDEZ</b> , son of Lisa Valdez	2/17	<b>JONATHAN DIAZ</b> , son of Jeanette Diaz
2/2	<b>ANDREW BALTINI</b> , brother of Kevin Baltini	2/17	<b>JUSTIN CRAIG LEDERMAN</b> , son of Ruth Lederman
2/2	<b>BRUCE WALES</b> , son of Fran Wales	2/17	<b>QUENTIN MUNDY</b> , son of Terri Mundy
2/2	<b>ISAAC JACOB MEYERS</b> , son of Nahma Sandrow Meyers , brother of Hannah Meyers	2/18	<b>DANNY CRONIN</b> , son of Mary Cronin
2/2	<b>KAYDEN POLIUS</b> , son of Letitia & Greg Polius	2/18	<b>EMRE EDEPLI</b> , son of Levant & Kirsten Edepli
2/3	<b>ANTONIA DALEY</b> , granddaughter of Linda Daley	2/19	<b>DEVON ALLEN</b> , son of Lisa Singletary
2/4	<b>CHARLIE-ROSE MCCALL</b> , daughter of Yolette Perry	2/20	<b>BLAKELY RUSSELL KAY</b> , daughter of Barbara Russell
2/5	<b>BRYCE SHELDON</b> , son of Bianca Villalona	2/20	<b>JOHN RICHARDSON</b> , son of Vivian Richardson
2/5	<b>CLAIRE MONTAIGNE</b> , daughter of Fen Montaigne	2/20	<b>LISA COOPER</b> , daughter of Alphonso Appleton
2/6	<b>JOSEPH BABY</b> , brother of Marilyn Baby, son of Yohannan Baby	2/20	<b>MIKEY HARTNETT</b> , son of Jessica & James Kerwin
2/6	<b>MASON SIMMS</b> , son of Shavon Simms	2/20	<b>SHANEIREE DAMES</b> , daughter of Vivian Richardson
2/7	<b>BRADLEY KEITH BONGAR</b> , son of Beth Bongar	2/20	<b>ZACHARY JAMES MILLIKEN</b> , son of Vigi Cadunz
2/8	<b>TRYGVE WASBOTTEN</b> , son of Marilyn Wasbotten	2/21	<b>ASHLEY HOPE GOODMAN</b> , daughter of Karen Goodman
2/9	<b>CLARK HARMAN</b> , son of Katherine & Alex Harman	2/22	<b>ALEXANDER GOLDIN-KRAUS</b> , son of Jill Goldin
2/10	<b>JEREMY RODRIGUEZ</b> , son of Wanda Marrero	2/22	<b>DANIEL BRENNAN</b> , brother of Aileen Brennan
2/10	<b>KAREN CASBAY</b> , sister of Laura Reissman	2/24	<b>ANAYA TAHA</b> , granddaughter of Soheir Kache
2/10	<b>MARINA ELIZABETH CLOOS</b> , daughter of Alice Cloos	2/24	<b>GEORGE MICHAEL PEREZ</b> , son of Priscilla Perez
2/10	<b>PABLO RAMIREZ</b> , son of Carlos Ramirez	2/25	<b>MICHAEL FABI</b> , son of Donna Leder
2/10	<b>STUART MILLER</b> , son of Nancy Morgan	2/26	<b>IAN ADLER</b> , son of Judy Adler
2/11	<b>STACEY LEONDIS</b> , sister of Diana Leondis	2/26	<b>IMOGEN ROCHE</b> , daughter of Theseus Roche
2/12	<b>IAN BOSIN</b> , son of Judy Neustadter	2/26	<b>MATTHEW GOODSTEIN</b> , son of Ann Goodstein
2/13	<b>BURKE TAYLOR</b> , brother of Emily Yoshikawa	2/27	<b>ADAM AZZOLI</b> , son of Amanda Azzoli
2/13	<b>GARY LEUNG</b> , brother of Tony Leung	2/27	<b>ALISON GERTZ</b> , daughter of Carol & the late Jerry Gertz
2/13	<b>ROMEL ARIAS</b> , son of Luisa Cabrera	2/27	<b>PARIS CAVIC</b> , sister of Mel Cavic
2/15	<b>DESTINI DOYLE</b> , daughter of Annette & Kendall Doyle	2/27	<b>QUINDORA PERSUAD</b> , daughter of Maria Cabassa
2/16	<b>MARTIN DE JESUS FLORES</b> , brother of Joanna Flores	2/28	<b>ANTHONY &amp; NICHOLAS AURELIA</b> , twin sons of Patrick Aurelia
2/16	<b>RAJESHVARI PATEL</b> , sister of Sandip Patel	2/28	<b>BARA COLODNE</b> , daughter of Mia and Eric Colodne
		2/28	<b>MARCUS PRESTON</b> , son of Valerie Preston



### Gifts of Love

**A Love Gift** is a donation given in memory of a child who has died, or sometimes a memorial to a relative or friend. It can be in honor of a happy event that you would like to acknowledge, or simply a gift from someone who wants to help in the work of our chapter.

All TCF chapters are totally dependent on funds from our families. We DO NOT receive funds from our National Office. Everything we need to operate our local chapters is paid directly from our local resources and our local family contributions. Thank you to all who can contribute and support this chapter. Please see 'Making a Contribution' below:

**Passing the Basket** – We raise needed funds at each meeting by passing a basket for voluntary contributions at our in-person meetings. We are so glad to hold online meetings whenever possible, but there is no 'basket' at our online meetings. If you are able to, whenever you can as an online participant, please help and make a 'Basket' contribution to help our organization.

### Making a contribution –

Easiest way – online – use a credit card securely with Paypal – Click this link: [Please donate here](#)

Or you may mail a check to The Compassionate Friends, c/o Sally Petrick, 945 West End Ave Apt 2B, New York, NY 10025. Please make your check payable to The Compassionate Friends – Manhattan Chapter. We need and appreciate your support.



**OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED**  
**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**



- 2/1 **ISABEL XIE**, baby daughter of Denise Chow & Wayne Xie
- 2/1 **JUSTIN HOLLAND**, son of Carole & Marvin Holland
- 2/1 **MISCHA DRUCKER ZIMMERMAN**, son of Henia Drucker
- 2/1 **RALPH JOSEPH GONZALEZ**, son of Blanca Gonzalez
- 2/2 **NARI GAJADHAR**, son of Beena Bermingham, nephew of Asha Singh
- 2/3 **CLARK HARMAN**, son of Katherine & Alex Harman
- 2/3 **GABRIEL ROCCOFORTE**, son of Judith Weiss
- 2/3 **JORDAN JOHN**, brother of Christian John
- 2/4 **ELLA BANDES**, daughter of Judy Kottick & Ken Bandes
- 2/5 **ADAM FELDBERG**, son of Tsipi Taube
- 2/5 **STEFAN PAKULSKI**, brother of Marek Pakulski
- 2/6 **BOBBY BEATTIE**, brother of Rose Beattie
- 2/8 **JESS ILIAS**, son of Chris Clavelli
- 2/8 **WILLIAM (BILLY) SMEAL**, nephew of Amanda Smeal
- 2/10 **JONATHAN BUCAOTO**, son of Ruth Sowell
- 2/10 **JONATHAN TARA**, son of John & Mary Tara
- 2/10 **SANDRA PLOUFFE**, daughter of Margie & Bram Jelin
- 2/12 **KEITH DANIEL**, son of Linda Daniel Finer
- 2/12 **LINCOLN WHEELER-POWELL**, son of John Powell & Britta Wheeler
- 2/12 **PAMELYNN SAMUEL**, daughter of Madelaine Samuel
- 2/12 **RAJESHVARI PATEL**, sister of Sandip Patel
- 2/13 **BRENDAN BITTNER**, brother of Jessica Bittner Markus
- 2/13 **LEO AYALA**, son of Gila Ayala
- 2/14 **DANIEL BRENNAN**, brother of Aileen Brennan
- 2/14 **ISAAC RAUCH**, son of Marc Rauch & Lisa Anderson
- 2/14 **KRISTEN SANCHEZ**, sister of Melissa Rosario
- 2/14 **NAOMI STOLAR**, sister of Susan Schindler

- 2/14 **RHETT THOMPSON**, son of Gayla Thompson
- 2/15 **RONAN CHRISTOPHER LOUIS**, son of Rick Louis
- 2/17 **LAURIE NICHOLS**, daughter of Marie Jones
- 2/17 **RICHARD VALDEZ**, son of Lisa Valdez
- 2/18 **BRIAN GEWIRTZ**, son of Kathleen & Steven Gewirtz
- 2/18 **MICHELE SIEGEL**, daughter of Lillian Hass
- 2/19 **BRANDON WEDEL**, brother of Brittni Wedel
- 2/19 **CASEY STRAKA**, son of Dana Straka
- 2/19 **CORLYN HAYNES**, daughter of Yvonne Haynes
- 2/19 **IAN ADLER**, son of Judy Adler
- 2/19 **JAVAN STEWART**, son of Omarr & Ursula Stewart
- 2/19 **KELLI ANNE AULETTA**, daughter of Dick & Mary Auletta, sister of Kimberlee
- 2/19 **LORI HEALY**, daughter of Tom Healy
- 2/20 **GERSON JAIR SALMON**, son of Ivette Salmon
- 2/21 **ALEXANDER ROBERTS**, son of Nancy Roberts
- 2/21 **TEVIN A. HAMPTON**, son of Patricia Lilly
- 2/22 **CARLOS APONTE**, son of Mildred Aponte
- 2/22 **SERYNA RODRIGUEZ**, daughter of Marilyn Castro
- 2/23 **AODHAN CUMISHEY**, daughter of Donal Cumishey
- 2/24 **LEO CONAGHAN**, nephew of Ellen Barry
- 2/24 **MARTIN DE JESUS FLORES**, brother of Joanna Flores
- 2/25 **MARY ANN VALVERDE**, sister of Victoria Soto
- 2/26 **GLENN SPELLER JR.**, son of Glenn Speller Sr.
- 2/26 **JOSEPH MARINO**, brother of Joanne Marino
- 2/27 **FLORENCE FRAZER**, sister of Harri Molese
- 2/27 **PAUL THOMPSON**, son of Elaine Thompson
- 2/28 **MICHAEL MCGOVERN**, son of Harri Molese



**Our Children Remembrances — Changes**

A longstanding tradition in our Manhattan Chapter of Compassionate Friends newsletter has been the listing of our children’s and sibling’s birthdays and anniversaries. I know I look *first* at each issue of the newsletter to see my child’s listing, my sister’s listing, and scan for the birthdays and anniversaries of my TCF friends’ loved ones.

It is very important that our listings are correct and meaningful and we try to keep the listings as accurate and up to date as possible, but we are not perfect. Should you desire a change to your loved one’s listing or if your listing is missing, please let us know. Email to [tcfmanhattan.nyc@gmail.com](mailto:tcfmanhattan.nyc@gmail.com) and tell us what needs to change.



# OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/1 **BOSTON GRIMM-STIBEL**, son of Travis Grimm
- 3/1 **JO ANNA BURRO**, daughter of Jeanette Burro
- 3/1 **RISA FIELD**, sister of Barbara Field
- 3/1 **ROSARIO TORANZO**, sister of Carmen Toranzo
- 3/1 **SCOTT DEMEL**, son of Caren and Marc Demel
- 3/3 **AREIS GORDON**, son of Joselyn Gordon
- 3/3 **DAVID MILLER**, brother of Jeanie Miller
- 3/3 **DIANE HASS**, daughter of Lillian Hass
- 3/3 **JENNA AGULE**, sister of Devon Agule
- 3/4 **CHRISTOPHER ROMINE**, brother of Jennifer Romine
- 3/4 **JASMINA ANEMA**, daughter of Theodora Anema
- 3/5 **PAMELYNN SAMUEL**, daughter of Madelaine Samuel
- 3/5 **RAY RATTRAY**, son of Amy Schrier & Dan Ratray
- 3/5 **STEFANO AGOSTINELLI**, son of Pascale Agostinelli
- 3/6 **LEAH NICO**, daughter of Linda Sacks, sister of Mara Bragg
- 3/6 **PARKER KOLTCHAK**, son of Deb Capone
- 3/6 **SITA OLIVE SINGH DUTTON**, daughter of Nirvani Bissessar and Edward Dutton
- 3/7 **CHRISTIAN FUERSICH**, son of Janet Fuersich
- 3/7 **RORY DAZE CHONG**, son of Pam Chong
- 3/7 **SHIMMER HALL**, daughter of Janine James
- 3/8 **DANIELLE ALEXANDRA GORDON**, daughter of Fran Gordon
- 3/8 **MAGGIE GOWELL**, daughter of John & Rosanna Gowell and sister of Jesse
- 3/9 **ANJELINA PATRICE WILLS**, granddaughter of Patricia Tyler-Owens
- 3/10 **CYBELE ELIZABETH FISHER-KOPPEL**, daughter of Phyllis & Jack Fisher, sister of Remy Fisher-Bauman
- 3/10 **ELINOR FRIEDBERG BLUME**, daughter of Leslie Kandell
- 3/10 **JULIAN SERAFIN**, son of Agata Lisok-Serafin
- 3/11 **GRACE CORDERO**, daughter of Margarita Zambrano
- 3/11 **LYNDON HOWARD**, son of Lila Howard
- 3/11 **SEAMUS WOOD**, son of Will Wood & Deb Funkhouser
- 3/12 **BENJAMIN RONALD OJEDA-FEINSTEIN**, son of Talo Ojeda & Reva Feinstein
- 3/13 **ALEXANDER ANDUJAR JR.**, son of Madelaine Colon
- 3/13 **ROBERT CABALES**, son of Susan Cabaes
- 3/14 **ALEXANDRA POLLIO**, daughter of Kathleen Curcio
- 3/14 **BENJAMIN LEWIS KAPLAN**, son of Barbara Lewis Kaplan , brother of Julia Kaplan
- 3/14 **WILLIAM JOHN BERTRAND**, son of MaryLee Bertrand
- 3/15 **ROBERT PATRICK JENKINS**, son of Barbara Jenkins, brother of Cheryl

- 3/17 **ELYSE CARVER**, daughter of Violette Carver
- 3/17 **GERSON JAIR SALMON**, son of Ivette Salmon
- 3/17 **SOLOMON LEVINE**, son of Debby Levine
- 3/17 **WILLIAM FISHER**, son of Sally A. Fisher
- 3/18 **ANDY FISHER**, son of Barbara Fisher
- 3/18 **ANDY PERSAUD**, son of Dennis Persaud, brother of Andrea Persaud
- 3/18 **DESHA BEAMER**, sister of Laura Beamer
- 3/19 **CHARLOTTE MILLER**, daughter of Caitlin Felton & Barney Miller, sister of Clara
- 3/20 **ISABEL L. DODWELL**, daughter of Amy & William Dodwell
- 3/20 **PHILIP GOODFRIEND**, son of Debbie Goodfriend
- 3/21 **JOSHUA UNDERWOOD**, brother of Sarah Underwood
- 3/22 **DARIA NORTON**, daughter of Charlotte Savino & Lee Norton
- 3/23 **ALEXANDER ROBERTS**, son of Nancy Roberts
- 3/23 **GLENN GILLIARD**, son of Rose Chaney
- 3/23 **MANUEL RODRIGUEZ**, son of Irene Rodriguez
- 3/24 **BRYANT GIBBS**, brother of Cynthia Gibbs-Pratt
- 3/24 **RONAN CHRISTOPHER LOUIS**, son of Rick Louis
- 3/25 **AUDREY NIBLO**, daughter of John Niblo
- 3/25 **JADEN MAXWELL THOMAS**, son of Louise Thomas, brother of Tanya
- 3/25 **RICHARD CONLEY**, son of Phyllis Conley
- 3/26 **AMANDA PIMENTEL GUZMAN**, daughter of Mayireny Guzman & Juan Pimentel
- 3/26 **BEN BREEN**, son of Carol Breen
- 3/26 **JEREMY PALLEY**, son of Iris Palley and Stephen Palley
- 3/26 **NOAH COMPTON-MEYER**, nephew of Allison Meyer
- 3/27 **CHADWICK ALEXANDER ANDERSON**, son of Stacie Hawkins
- 3/27 **STEVEN HOUTERMAN**, son of Awilda Rodriguez Houterman
- 3/28 **DAVID LANG BAREK**, son of Peggy Lang
- 3/29 **BRANDON WEDEL**, brother of Brittni Wedel
- 3/29 **MICHAEL VINCENT ROSEN PIPITONE**, son of Alison Rosen & David Hantman
- 3/29 **ROBERT VRABLIK**, brother of Lauren Vrablik
- 3/30 **ALEX REY**, son of Alex and Myrna Rey, brother of Amanda Rey
- 3/30 **AURELIE FRANCHITTI**, daughter of Marianna Vertsman, sister of Valerie Franchitti
- 3/30 **SANDY SMITH**, sister of Cindy Smith
- 3/30 **ZANE MANDEL-MICHALAK**, son of Janet Robinson
- 3/31 **ADAM RAPOPORT**, brother of Lindsay Rapoport
- 3/31 **ROBERT RODRIGUEZ**, son of Caroline Linares





**OUR CHILDREN—LOVED AND REMEMBERED**  
**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**



3/2 **DANIEL ALBERT**, son of Anita Albert, brother of Jenna Van Dusen

3/2 **NATASHA GEMBKA**, daughter of Tim & Alexis Gembka

3/2 **TY PICKETT**, son of Jan Pickett

3/3 **ERIC LINETT**, beloved nephew of Roberta Schine

3/3 **LOUIS ARESU**, son of Elizabeth Sperrazza, brother of Maria Sperrazza

3/4 **EDDIE WALSH**, twin brother of Tricia Walsh

3/4 **SAESHA KAYTAL**, daughter of Supriya & Sid Kaytal

3/4 **WILL EARLE**, son of Nancy Earle

3/5 **MICHAEL MCFARLAND**, son of Tamara McFarland

3/6 **ALEXANDER MAXWELL**, son of Deanna & Kent Grant

3/6 **DANIELLE BAKER**, sister of Tiffany Baker

3/6 **DIMITRI VAZQUEZ**, son of Maria Bryant

3/6 **RICHIE BENANTI**, son of Monica Benanti

3/7 **PETER SCHLENDORF**, son of Karen Schlendorf

3/9 **DAVID 'JESSE' REISSMAN**, brother of Phil Reissman

3/9 **DONNA MALIZIS**, daughter of Agata Malizis

3/9 **ROBERT VRABLIK**, brother of Lauren Vrablik

3/9 **ROSARIO TORANZO**, sister of Carmen Toranzo

3/10 **BRIAN MARC LIPTON**, son of Nancy & Charles Lipton

3/11 **GRACE CORDERO**, daughter of Margarita Zambrano

3/11 **MILO KESSLER**, son of Alana Fishberg & Daryl Kessler

3/12 **AMOL VADEHRA**, brother of Mallika Vadehra

3/12 **BURTON SANDLES**, son of Ina Sandles

3/12 **TEREL SMITH**, son of Cathy Philbert

3/13 **JACK CASSELS**, son of Ellen Cassels-Conde & John Cassels, brother of Collin Cassels

3/13 **JOHN CORBETT**, brother of Sara Corbett

3/13 **JUDAH GUBBAY**, son of Marge Gubbay

3/13 **NOAH COMPTON-MEYER**, nephew of Allison Meyer

3/14 **AMY KIMM**, daughter of Arleen Becker

3/14 **MICHAEL ANTHONY EAGLE**, son of Leslie Katina Eagle

3/15 **DANIELLE ALEXANDRA GORDON**, daughter of Fran Gordon

3/16 **ARTHUR KOZLOVSKI**, son of Anna Murzhenko, brother of Kristina Kozlovski

3/16 **CHARLIE DENIHAN**, son of Barbara and Ben Denihan, brother of Krissy and Kate

3/16 **MICHAEL KAMEO**, son of Mordi and Keren Kameo

3/16 **NICHOLAS MONICO**, son of Lisa & Craig Monico

3/17 **ISAAC JACOB MEYERS**, son of Nahma Sandrow Meyers, brother of Hannah Meyers

3/17 **LAUREN HAROPULOS**, daughter of Mike & Barbara Haropulos

3/18 **CATHERINE CORENU**, daughter of Carrie Tuhy

3/18 **CHARLENE ALVAREZ**, daughter of Charlie Alvarez

3/18 **DAVID MILLER**, brother of Jeanie Miller

3/19 **DAVID KRANZ**, son of Denise Kranz and Charles Katz

3/19 **LUKA BALAC**, son of Olgica Balac

3/19 **SITA OLIVE SINGH DUTTON**, daughter of Nirvani Bissessar and Edward Dutton

3/20 **MICHAEL STEIN**, son of Eric Stein

3/20 **RASHID WASHINGTON**, son of Chakaina Anderson

3/21 **JELANI CARTER**, son of Darlene Hoffman

3/21 **LOUIS KORENMAN**, son of Sanders Korenman

3/21 **MELANIE DINOWITZ**, daughter of Elaine Dinowitz

3/21 **MICHAEL CYRUS**, son of Linda Reed

3/22 **CARRA POLEN**, daughter of Nella Hahn

3/22 **LIN GUO**, brother of Sylvia Guo

3/23 **ARIELLE ANEY**, daughter of Jenelle & Christopher Aney

3/23 **JOSHUA CLARKE**, son of Jodie Retalis & Anthony Clarke

3/24 **CALLUM ROCHE**, son of Sean Roche

3/24 **SUZANNE PAGE**, daughter of Timmie Ross

3/25 **MATTHEW CARLSON LUTZ**, son of Linda L. Carlson

3/26 **AIMEE GANDOUR**, sister of Molly Gandour

3/26 **CLARIS GLOVER**, daughter of Crystal Glover

3/27 **ASHLEE D. BLAKE GUTIERREZ**, daughter of Marlene & Francisco Guttierrez

3/28 **ROBERT GRAUP**, son of Leona Graup

3/28 **TEPLY RACHMEL**, daughter of Alllison Tepley & Nir Rachmel

3/28 **ZAIDA SANTIAGO**, daughter of Selena Santiago & Lewis Harbour

3/29 **GARY LEUNG**, brother of Tony Leung

3/29 **KHEMALI MURRAY**, daughter of Georgette Murray

3/29 **NICOLAS DE LAVALETTE**, brother of Sebastian Lavalette

3/31 **GRANT PHILLIPS**, son of Linda Phillips

3/31 **HARRIS KAPLANSKY**, son of Denise Gelfand





THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CHAT SCHEDULE. <a href="#">Click here to display exact times and to see entire schedule</a>			
ET	MORNING	EARLIER EVENING	LATER EVENING
MON	Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	First time CHAT orientation	General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings
TUE		Loss to Substance Related Causes First time CHAT orientation	Bereaved less than 2 yrs Bereaved more than 2 yrs
WED	Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	First time CHAT orientation	General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings
THU		No Surviving Children First time CHAT orientation	General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings
FRI	General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings	Pregnancy/Infant Loss	General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings
SAT			General Bereavement Parents/Grandparents/Siblings
SUN		Suicide Loss	General Bereavement Issues Parents/Grandparents/Siblings

**The Compassionate Friends National Office**  
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Toll Free (877) 969-0010  
www.compassionatefriends.org  
email:nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org

**WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE**  
*TCF Online National Magazine*  
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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
Our next Chapter meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month:  
**FEB 18 MAR 18 APR 15 MAY 20**

**Newsletter article submissions are welcome.**  
Please email to [marielevine2@verizon.net](mailto:marielevine2@verizon.net)

**MAKE A DONATION**  
[Click here to Donate to the Manhattan Chapter](#)

### OUR COMPASSIONATE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS

Babylon	1st Friday	(516) 795-8644	Medford	2nd Friday	(631) 738-0809
Bronx	2nd Tuesday	(914) 714-4885	Rockville Centre	2nd Friday	(516) 766-4682
Brookhaven	2nd Friday	(631) 738-0809	Rockland County	3rd Tuesday	(845) 398-9762
Brooklyn	3rd Wednesday	(917) 952-9751	SmithPoint/Mastic	2nd Thursday	(631) 281-9004
Flushing	3rd Friday	(718) 746-5010	Staten Island	2nd & 4th Thurs.	(718) 983-0377
Manhasset	3rd Tuesday	(516) 466-2480	Syosset (Plainview)	3rd Friday	(718) 767-0904
Marine Park, Bklyn	3rd Friday	(718) 605-1545	White Plains	1st Thursday	(914) 381-3389

### PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUPS

Click below for National Website's Listing of groups.

#### 24/7 PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUPS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss of a Child</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss of a Stepchild</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss of an Only Child/All Your Children</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Multiple Losses</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Daughterless Mothers</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Men in Grief</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Bereaved LGBTQ Parents with Loss of a Child</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Bereaved Parents with Grandchild Visitation Issues</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss to Miscarriage or Stillbirth</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Infant and Toddler Loss</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss of a Child 4 -12 Years Old</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss of a Child 13-19 Years Old</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss of an Adult Child</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss of a Child with Special Needs</a></p> | <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss of a Grandchild</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Miscarriage, Stillbirth, Loss of an Infant Grandchild</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss to Long-term Illness</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss to Cancer</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss After Withdrawing Life Support</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss to Mental Illness</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Sudden Death</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss to Suicide</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss to Homicide</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss to Substance Related Causes</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Loss to a Drunk/Impaired Driver</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Grieving with Faith and Hope</a></p> <p><a href="#">TCF – Reading Your Way Through Grief</a></p> |
|--|--|

The Compassionate Friends  
c/o Sally Petrick - Treasurer  
945 West End Ave Apt 2B  
New York, NY 10025

**Making a Donation—Now Online**

Many of us are grateful for what Compassionate Friends has done for them and want to lend their support, even those who do not currently attend our meetings. You can still mail a check to the address to the left or donate online.

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